Sunday May 22, 2022
Faith and Finances Part-2: God, Our Rewarder

We are continuing this short two part sermon series on "Faith and Finances". Our purpose in these sermons is to encourage and minister specifically to those who may be facing challenges in finances. So, we are not going to be answering all the theological questions and arguments about material possessions, finances, etc. We will have to leave that for another time.

Last Sunday we emphasized God, Our Provider. How God has designed work as one of the ways through which His provision comes into our lives. He also uses other ways to bring provision into our lives, e.g. the generosity of others, and He also works miracles of provision to bring His supply into our lives.

We stated last Sunday that **GOD DESIGNED WORK AS AN EXPRESSION OF STEWARDSHIP, CREATIVITY, AND MULTIPLICATION** (wealth creation).

Stewardship – you put to good use the knowledge, skills, and resources you have.

Creativity – you create new things to address needs, resolve problems and bless people.

Multiplication – you bring about increase both for yourself and for others to benefit, e.g. a farmer benefits himself and many other by his produce, businesses provide employment, etc.

We also saw in Scripture that **GOD BLESSES US IN THE WORK WE DO**.

Since work is one of the normal channels God uses us to provide for us, and all of us desire to see increase in God's provision in our lives, it is important to understand from Scripture **HOW GOD WANTS US TO WORK SO THAT WE POSITION OURSELVES TO RECEIVE HIS REWARDS IN THE WORKPLACE**, and some of **THE REWARDS WE CAN EXPECT IN THE WORKPLACE** that can result in increase in finances.

A COVENANT OF INCREASE

Deuteronomy 8:18
And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Under the Old Covenant, God promised to give His people the power (power = vigor, strength, capacity, ability) to get wealth. This was part of Him making good His covenant with His people. Surely, we, under the new covenant, a better covenant, can expect God to do so for us.

Consider this – THE ABILITY TO GET WEALTH IS A COVENANT PROVISION. YOU WORK IS COVERED BY COVENANT.

Of course, to receive covenant blessings or covenant provisions we must walk in obedience to the covenant. We must live as covenant people. So we wish to highlight from Scripture **how God wants us to work so that we position ourselves to receive His rewards in the workplace**, and some of **the rewards we can expect in the workplace** that can result in increase in finances.

WORK AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST

Ephesians 6:5-6
5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

This portion of Scripture deals with the workplace. The apostle Paul refers to believers who are employees as "bondservants of Christ". Or, if we use modern terminology "employees", we are "employees of Christ" in the workplace, working under/for leaders/managers. We are first and foremost "employees of Christ" before being the employee of the organization. Hence, the work we do we do as unto Christ, and as representing Christ.

The Bible teaches us here to be employees of Christ who do our work respectfully, in sincerity, and whole-heartedly.

Now, one side note:
The workplace, in general is a very hostile environment. There are people who try to outdo one another, undercut one another, people who are corrupt, unjust, and wicked. And we must not allow people to "tread all over us" so to speak just because we are "employees of Christ".

We are like sheep among wolves. But we don't have to become everybody's lunch. We walk with wisdom, while being harmless. Through wisdom the harmless sheep overpower the howling wolves!

Matthew 10:16
Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

WORK WITH EXCELLENCE

Proverbs 22:29
Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

To do your work with excellence is to do it well, do it in a timely manner, do it better than expected, and do it cheerfully.

If we do our work well, with excellence, we will have the opportunity to "stand before kings".

Excellence does not happen by chance. We must be intentional in pursuing excellence in what we do.

Excellence requires determined and consistent effort.

Excellence requires continuous learning and improvement. We cannot rely on yesterday's knowledge and skill alone.

WORK AS A GOOD STEWARD

In Luke 16:1-11, the Lord Jesus used the illustration of a bad steward, a man who mismanaged or mishandled what he was entrusted with but was shrewd to manipulate things to his own advantage.

Luke 16:8
So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

What Jesus pointed out was that the unjust steward was shrewd (one version uses the word “street smart”) and in like manner, the people of this world are more shrewd, cunning, clever in their own way, than the sons of light.

SO HOW DO WE COUNTER “SHREWDNESS”? WITH GOOD STEWARDSHIP!

SHREWDNESS, CUNNING, CLEVER MANIPULATIONS, ETC. CANNOT OUTDO GOOD STEWARDSHIP.

Towards the end of the parable of the unjust steward the Lord Jesus taught these powerful lessons on stewardship:

Luke 16:9-12
9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.
10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.
11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?
12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

What do we learn here:
A good steward uses money to build relationships.

A good steward is faithful in what is little.

A good steward is faithful is money matters and can be entrusted with eternal things.
This has practical implications. When it comes to finances and material things, how we manage what we currently have will position us for more. This is the reason we must learn the basics of good financial management. At APC we have been hosting financial planning workshops for many years now. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the essentials and then practice it. Get financial advisors to help you learn how to manage your money and be a good steward of the resources you have been given.

A good steward is faithful in what belongs to someone else and can be entrusted with what is his own.

So, as we work, we need to practice what God has instructed us to do:
WORK AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST

WORK WITH EXCELLENCE
WORK AS A GOOD STEWARD

As we do so, we position ourselves to receive His rewards in the workplace. His reward, His honor over our lives in the workplace, will bring increase.

GOD IS A REWARDER

The Bible talks about grace and rewards.
We are accustomed to hearing about grace – God's unmerited favor that gives us what we do not deserve.
God is also a Rewarder (Hebrews 11:6). He rewards us in response to our faith, obedience, stewardship, and diligence.

THE REWARD OF INCREASE

We see under the Old Covenant, that as God's people followed His commands and instructions, His blessing would bring increase in their workplace. For them this was in terms of the produce of the land, their livestock, etc. In our context, increase in the workplace may appear a little differently.

Deuteronomy 28:4,11,12
Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.
11 And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.
12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

The principle of increase that comes through His blessing, is still the same.
We can expect the same.

THE REWARD OF PROMOTION

Psalm 75:6-7
6 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.
7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

Promotion puts us in levels of places of greater honor, influence, and responsibility. God makes room for our promotion. And He lifts us up. This is His blessing and His reward. We already saw the Scripture in Proverbs 22:29 that reiterates this. As we do our work the way He instructed us, He will cause promotion in our lives.

In the Bible we see the amazing and the unusual ways in which God works promotion: Joseph from the prison, David becoming a king, etc.

THE REWARD OF DIVINE FAVOR

Proverbs 3:3-4
3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,
4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

God blesses us with divine favor. The favor of God gives us access to people, opportunities and resources we otherwise would not have had. God bring things into our lives, as an act of His favor on us.

We must position ourselves for divine favor in our workplaces, as we follow His instructions, and walk in mercy and truth.

(For more on Divine Favor, please download our free APC book: Divine Favor).

REVIEW

Three responsibilities
WORK AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST
WORK WITH EXCELLENCE
WORK AS A GOOD STEWARD

Three rewards
THE REWARD OF INCREASE
THE REWARD OF PROMOTION
THE REWARD OF DIVINE FAVOR

INCREASE, PROMOTION, AND FAVOR WILL COME, RESULTING IN FINANCIAL INCREASE, AS WE WORK AS MINISTERS OF CHRIST, WITH EXCELLENCE AND AS GOOD STEWARDS.

SALVATION CALL (BY YOUR FREE CHOICE AND FREE WILL)

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8
If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12
If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6
If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12
If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12
If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31
As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday May 22, 2022
Faith and Finances Part-2: God, Our Rewarder

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture reference: *Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 22:29; Psalm 75:6-7*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss the implications of having a covenant with God, where God gives us the ability to get wealth as a covenant provision (Deuteronomy 8:18).

2, Discuss the three responsibilities in the workplace that were mentioned. Share some practical experiences where you pursued these and what were the outcomes?
WORK AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST
WORK WITH EXCELLENCE

WORK AS A GOOD STEWARD

3, Discuss the three rewards in the workplace that were mentioned. Share some practical experiences where you saw God bless you with these.
THE REWARD OF INCREASE
THE REWARD OF PROMOTION
THE REWARD OF DIVINE FAVOR

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

God our Provider is the Source of our total supply. God uses different ways to deliver His supply into our lives. God designed work as one of the ways He would supply for us. At work we must operate as ministers of Christ, working with excellence and as good stewards. God rewards us with increase, promotion, and divine favor at the workplace.

KEYWORDS :

faith and finances, workplace, financial miracles, divine provision, material blessings, Jehovah Jireh, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

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